

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/704,667

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Negussie Worku

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-10 and 20-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-10, 20-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-10 and 20-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection and a non-final office action is submitted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 20-23, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohtsuki (USP 5,920,758).

With respect to claim 1, Ohtsuki discloses an image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1) carrying an optical reading apparatus (scanner unit 100 of fig 1) thereon, wherein

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said optical reading apparatus (100 of fig 1) comprises: platen glass (a glass platen included over the scanning unit 100 of fig where the document o be read is held) defined with one end and the other end, on an upper surface of which an original document is placed; an optical reading unit (scanner unit 100 of fig 1 and 2) that scans between said both ends on a lower surface of said platen glass, for obtaining image data by irradiating an original document surface with light through said platen, (platen image holding member , see col.4, lines 33-35, to obtain image data from the document by scanner 100 light have to be illuminated through the document holder or platen as shown in fig 2, see col.6, lines 31-34); a control circuit board (a control circuit that provide electrical signal from the power source to the scanner 100 of fig 1, and to the whole system have inherently provided in the image forming 200 and scanner 100 of fig 1), connected to said optical reading unit (scanner 101 of fig 1 or 2), for processing an electric signal; and a housing (main body of fig 1 or 2) having a side on the side of said other end is thicker than a side on the side of said one end, (the lower side(middle) of the housing of fig 1, is thicker than the lower end, as shown in fig 1), wherein said image forming apparatus 200 of fig 1) having comprises a cabinet positioned under said housing (fig 1) of said housing of said optical reading apparatus (scanner 100 of fig 1) said cabinet comprising: sheet discharge means (300 of fig 1) for discharging an image formation sheet from under said thicker side of said housing of said optical reading apparatus (100 of fig 1); a discharge tray (300a of fig 2) disposed at and covering an

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upper portion of said cabinet under said housing of said optical reading unit (scanner 100 of fig 1) on which the image formation sheet discharged from said sheet discharge means (14 of fig 2) is received and stacked.

With respect to claim 2, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein said control circuit board (a control circuit that provide electrical signal from the power source to the scanner 100 of fig 1, and to the whole system have inherently provided in the image forming 200 and scanner 100 of fig 1) is provided in a position lower than running movement space of said optical reading unit (scanner 100 of fig 1 and 2).

With respect to claim 3, Ohtsuki an image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), carrying an optical reading apparatus (scanner unit 100 of fig 1) thereon, wherein said optical reading apparatus (shown in fig 1) comprising platen glass (the glass contact plate of fig 1, see col.6, lines 30-35) defined with one end and the other end, on an upper surface of which an original document (original on top of platen glass) is placed; first carriage means having light source (exposure lamp is inherently provided in the system fig 1) that scans between said both ends on a lower surface of said platen glass, (the glass contact plate of fig 1, see col.6, lines 30-35) for irradiating an original document surface with light through said platen glass and first reflection means (a

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mirror is inherently included in the scanner 100 of fig 1) for reflecting reflection light from said original document surface in a direction of said end of said platen glass (contact glass); second carriage means (a plurality of carriages are inherently included) a mirror is inherently included in the scanner 100 of fig 1) having second reflection means (mirror in the scanner 100 of fig 1) and third reflection means (mirror in the scanner 100 of fig 1) that scans for reflecting said reflecting light from said first carriage means a plurality of carriages are inherently included) in a direction of said other end of platen glass; a lens (scanner 100 of fig 1, inherently include lens) receiving reflection light of aid original from said second carriage means and for forming an optical image of said original document; photoelectric conversion means (scanner 100 of fig 1) for receiving said optical image formed by said lens and for converting said optical image into electric signal; a control circuit board (a control circuit that provide electrical signal from the power source to the scanner 100 of fig 1, and to the whole system have inherently provided in the image forming 200 and scanner 100 of fig 1) connected to said photoelectric conversion means (scanner 100 of fig 1), for processing an electric signal, and a housing (housing of fig 1 and 2), having a side on the side of said other end is thicker than a side on the side of said one end, (the half upper end side of copy machine shown in fig 1, is thicker than the lower half end) wherein said image forming apparatus (image forming 200 of fig 1), comprises a cabinet (300 of fig 1), positioned under said housing of said optical reading apparatus, said cabinet comprising: sheet

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discharge means (rollers 14 of fig 2) for discharging an image formation sheet from a under said thicker side of said housing (housing 1 of fig 1) of said optical reading (scanner unit 100 of fig 1) apparatus; and a discharge tray (14 of fig 1), disposed at and covering an upper portion of said cabinet under said housing of said optical reading apparatus, (100 of fig 1), on which the image formation sheet discharged from said sheet discharge means (14 of fig 1, discharge the document that the image is formed) is received and stacked.

With respect to claim 5, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein said control circuit board (a control circuit that provide electrical signal from the power source to the scanner 100 of fig 1, and to the whole system have inherently provided in the image forming 200 and scanner 100 of fig 1) is provided at an equal height of or at a position lower than said photoelectric conversion means (scanner unit 100 of fig 1).

With respect to claim 6, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein said optical reading apparatus (scanner unit 100 of fig 1) further comprising shield means (housing of fig 1, services as a shield) surrounding said photoelectric conversion means (scanner 100 of fig 1) and said control circuit board, (a control circuit that provide electrical signal from the power source to the scanner 100 of

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fig 1, and to the whole system have inherently provided in the image forming 200 and scanner 100 of fig 1) for preventing entrance of leakage light inside and outside said apparatus (1 of fig 1) and electric noise and preventing electromagnetic wave interference including diffusion of radiation noise.

With respect to claim 7, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein in said optical reading apparatus, (scanner 100 of fig 1) drive mechanism means (drive mechanism, such as roller 14 of fig 2, inherently include motor) including a drive motor is provided on said other end side rather than said center of said platen glass (platen glass plate of fig 1) on a back side opposite to an operation front side of said apparatus.

With respect to claim 8, Ohtsuki discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein said platen glass (platen glass, see col.32-34) in said housing means (200 of fig 1) of said optical reading (scanner 100 of fig 1) apparatus is moved to the operation front side of said apparatus (1 of fig 1).

With respect to claim 9, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 as shown in fig 1), wherein said image forming apparatus has an automatic document feeding device (10' of fig 1) on said optical reading apparatus, (scanner unit 100 of fig 1)

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and wherein said automatic document feeding device (10' of fig 1) is hinged, so as to open and close said platen glass surface, see (col.6, lines 32-34) on a back peripheral side opposite to the operation front side of said optical reading (100 of fig 1) apparatus with respect to said cabinet (300 of fig 1).

With respect to claim 10, Shojo discloses the image forming apparatus (1 of fig 1) wherein image data of said original document (original positioned on contact platen of fig 1, see col.6, lines 32-34) is read from said one end side toward said other end side of said platen glass.

With respect to claim 20, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein said control circuit board (a control circuit that provide electrical signal from the power source to the scanner 100 of fig 1, and to the whole system have inherently provided in the image forming 200 and scanner 100 of fig 1) is for processing said image data transmitted from said optical reading apparatus (100 of fig 1).

With respect to claim 21, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein said control circuit board (a control circuit that provide electrical signal from the power source to the scanner 100 of fig 1, and to the whole system have

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inherently provided in the image forming 200 and scanner 100 of fig 1), is for processing said image data transmitted from photoelectric conversion means (scanner 100 of fig 1).

With respect to claim 22, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein a part that is included in said optical reading apparatus (scanner unit 100 of fig 1) is placed inside said thicker side bottom of said housing of optical reading apparatus (scanner 100 of fig 1).

With respect to claim 23, Ohtsuki, discloses the image forming apparatus (200 of fig 1), wherein housing (200 of fig 1), of optical reading apparatus has a sink portion formed in said thicker side bottom of said housing (1 of fig 1), and a part that is included in said reading apparatus (scanner 100 of fig 1) is placed in said sink portion.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from Examiner should be directed to *Negussie Worku* whose telephone number is (703) 305-5441.

The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 am - 6 pm if attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **Kimberly Williams**, can be reached on (703) 305-4863.

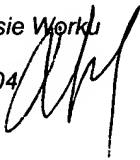
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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-5406, and any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Negussie Worku

03/04/04



KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER